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The Board of
Missionary Preparation
of North America

Its Origin and Program

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THE BOARD OF MISSION- ARY PREPARATION

I

ITS ORIGIN

The Board of Missionary Preparation originated at the World Missionary Conference of 1910 at Edinburgh through the masterly report of Commission Five on the Education of Missionaries. Based upon a long-extended investigation this report voiced with startling emphasis the views of missionaries in the field and of mission experts everywhere to the effect that far too much time was being spent on the foreign field by young missionaries in gaining proficiency. The very general explanation of this costly condition was, on the one hand, the failure of missionary candidates to use to best advantage the years of preparation in the homeland together with the first year or two on the field and, on the other, the failure of the institutions engaged in the training of missionaries to provide the education best adapted to the needs of candidates. The report concluded with the recommendation that Boards of Missionary Studies be created at the home base to take the lead in placing the whole process of preparation on a more satisfying and scientific basis.

The discussion of the report of Commission Five at Edinburgh brought out the administrative and economic, no less than the religious importance of this recommendation. It was readily seen that

if the period required to-day for the development of a competent missionary could be considerably reduced the administrative benefit would be impressive. At the same time the individual candidate would greatly profit by reason of the direction given to his studies and the anticipation of many of his problems.

The outcome of this discussion was the prompt organization in Great Britain of a Board of Missionary Study, which is rendering splendid service to the Mission Boards of the United Kingdom.

In January, 1911, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, responding to the recommendation of the Continuation Committee of the World's Missionary Conference, appointed a Committee of Nineteen empowered "to consider whether a Board of Missionary Studies shall be created in North America" and "to take any action which it may consider desirable for the creation of such a Board."

On January 13, 1911, this committee met and appointed a special committee to "study the whole subject, present a scheme of organization, and present a list of names from which may be drawn a thoroughly representative Board."

On June 8, 1911, the Committee of Nineteen received and approved the report of its sub-committee, adopted a constitution for the new organization, appointed a Board of thirty-six members representative of the various interests involved, and designated officers to act until the next meeting of the Foreign Missions Conference, when they could be regularly elected by the Conference.

The next half year was devoted to a careful study of plans of procedure.

The first annual meeting of the newly created Board was held on December 6, 1911. At that meeting plans involving a fresh survey of the problems underlying missionary preparation in North America were determined. Four committees were set up to investigate and report, one on Plans and Practise of Foreign Missionary Boards as to the Preparation required of their Candidates; one to study "The Present Facilities Afforded Missionary Candidates in Institutions and Movements" and to discover what further facilities were needed for the training of missionary candidates; one on Courses of Reading for Candidates under appointment for Foreign Missionary Service and for Missionaries; and one to define the "Fundamental Qualifications for Missionary Work." These reports were presented to the second annual meeting held in New York City on December 6, 1912. They are to be found in the Second Annual Report of the Board.

The value of this method of procedure became so manifest at this second annual meeting that the Executive Committee was authorized to project and organize a fresh series of investigations relating to the special preparation necessary for candidates preparing for different types of missionary service. Four committees were appointed, one on the Preparation of Ordained Missionaries, one on the Preparation of Educational Missionaries, one on the Preparation of Medical Missionaries and one on the Preparation of Workers among Women. The reports of these committees were presented to the third annual meeting held in Kansas City, Mo., on January 5, 1914, and published in the Third Annual Report of the Board.

The rapid broadening of the work of the Board confirmed its members in their original conviction

that a Director was essential to give his whole time and experience to the leadership of the enterprise. On June 15, 1914, Dr. Frank K. Sanders was called from the presidency of Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas to be the Director of the Board.

II

ITS PROGRAM

The Board of Missionary Preparation soon discovered that these investigations and reports led on to its rendering on behalf of the Foreign Mission Boards, their missionaries and their candidates a variety of services for which it would be impracticable for most Boards to provide.

1. *It constantly investigates and formulates the Problems involved in Adequate Preparation.*—As stated above, the Board of Missionary Preparation set itself promptly to the task of formulating reliable ideals of preparation for missionary service. The first two series of investigations have been described. In 1915 the Board completed and published a series of six reports on Preparation for Fields of Missionary Labor. These discussed the special preparation needed by a missionary appointed to China, India, Japan, Latin America, the Near East and Pagan Africa. They are to be found in the Fourth Annual Report. During 1916 the Board has been at work upon a series of five reports on Preparation for Dealing with Peoples Professing Other Religions than Christianity. Several of these reports will appear early in 1917, but they require much time for completion.

Each of the reports in the four series already issued have been in the first instance prepared by a committee, carefully selected for its first-hand

knowledge of the theme or for an authoritative grasp of it. Each report as issued by its committee is printed and sent all over the world for the searching criticism of those who are recognized as experts. It is then carefully revised, often twice. In consequence the reports are as nearly as possible representative of the judgments of the whole missionary world. They seem to be read as eagerly by experienced missionaries as by novices.

2. *It makes These Results available for Mission Boards, Educational Institutions and Missionary Candidates.*—These reports are published at actual cost. They are distributed by the various Mission Boards to those who are looking forward to service on the mission field. They may be ordered directly from the Board of Missionary Preparation at the prices indicated at the end of this pamphlet. The Board is not provided with the means for free distribution.

The reports are rapidly becoming a small library of missionary preparation. Eventually they will afford an answer to all questions naturally raised by the keen, enthusiastic student of the missionary enterprise.

3. *It studies the Definite Needs of the Missionary Candidate during his Days as a Student.*—Everyone who hopes to go to the mission field requires much expert advice regarding his program. Each candidate needs individual attention. The Board aims to supplement and strengthen in every feasible way the work of the candidate secretaries of the Boards in their study of the personality, educational history and destination of the candidates under their direction.

4. *It aids in studying the Needs of the Young Missionary during his First Term of Service on the Field.*—This term of from five to seven years

is the most critical period in the life of the young missionary. He is in sore need of wise advice born out of experience. The Board of Missionary Preparation seeks to collate such counsel and to make it available to the young missionary through its publications.

5. *It seeks to help Him to make a Fruitful Use of His First Furlough.*—The modern strategy of missions calls for increasing specialization even along with general ability. The able missionary of the future will seek to be more or less of an authority in some specific direction, of importance to his field or suggested by it. The Board is deeply interested in aiding the Foreign Boards and their missions in promoting the selection and encouragement of these studies and particularly in helping the individual missionary to make a wise use of a part of his first furlough in furthering them.

6. *It cooperates with the Boards in persuading different Types of Educational Institutions to provide the Courses required by candidates.*—The alert and zealous student may often be prevented from making the wisest use of his time as a student for lack of proper opportunities. The Board through conference with leaders of each type of educational activity, whether collegiate or professional, seeks to assist in establishing certain standards of equipment, organization and curriculum, which will give to each institution its maximum efficiency with reference to missionary preparation.

7. *It serves through its Office as a Central Bureau of Information on Questions of Preparation for Secretaries of Boards, for Missionaries on Furlough, for Schools and for Candidates.*—The

questions which are legitimately raised by candidates who seriously consider their problems are innumerable and usually quite technical. To answer them wisely taxes the resources of anyone particularly of a busy Secretary. The Board of Missionary Preparation places its resources at the disposal of the Mission Boards for the careful investigation of such problems and their helpful solution.


The range of the Board is thus far-reaching. As far as possible its work reflects the judgment of the missionary experience of the world. It fills a place of usefulness which no other organization occupies. It occupies a unique field which taxes its resources to the utmost, gives promise of steady enlargement and broadening influence, and serves as a fresh incentive to the spirit of friendly co-operation among Christian believers for the furtherance of the Kingdom.

Any inquiries regarding its work or its publications and any request for its services should be addressed to the Director,

REV. FRANK K. SANDERS, PH.D.,

25 Madison Avenue,

New York City.



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PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD

PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONARY PREPARATION

The Second Annual Report (1912)

Containing the reports on "Fundamental Qualifications for Missionary Work" and on the "Facilities for Training Missionary Candidates."

Paper, price 25 cents, postpaid.

The Third Annual Report (1913)

Rich in suggestions concerning the special training which evangelistic, educational, medical, and women missionaries should seek. It also contains a report on the use of the missionary furlough, a list of the institutions which offer special courses for candidates and suggestions of valuable courses of reading.

Paper, price 25 cents, postpaid.

The Fourth Annual Report (1914)

Containing reports on preparation for different fields, such as China, Japan, India, Latin America, the Near East and Pagan Africa. It also includes full reports of the two important Conferences on Preparation of Ordained Missionaries and Administrative Problems.

Paper, price 50 cents, postpaid.

The Fifth Annual Report (1915)

Containing reports of two important Conferences on Preparation of Women for Foreign Service and Preparation of Medical Missionaries, besides other reports.

Paper, price 25 cents, postpaid.

